

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT G. F. LEE  
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

EDWARD T. TEIXEIRA  
VICE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE



PHONE (808) 733-4300  
FAX (808) 733-4287

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE**  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

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To: Facilities Operations, Maintenance, Safety and Design Personnel, Architects and Engineers, and Emergency Planners

From: Brian Yanagi  
State of Hawaii Civil Defense

Subject: Nonstructural Seismic Hazards and Structural Seismic Safety Program Issues Workshops - February 24 through March 7, 2003 - Honolulu, Hilo, Kailua-Kona, and Wailuku, Hawaii

The State of Hawaii Civil Defense would like to invite you and your staff to attend the *Nonstructural Seismic Hazards and Structural Seismic Safety Program Issues Workshops*. In a continuing effort to share advances in the building seismic safety field, these workshops will be hosted by State Civil Defense and conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior Seismic Safety Program and the Bureau of Reclamation Building Seismic Safety Program.

The February 2001 Nisqually Earthquake near Seattle, Washington, provided clear evidence of the significant overall costs associated with nonstructural and structural failures caused by a moderate earthquake. The workshop will identify these potential risks and emphasize the economic justification to take low-cost steps to mitigate the risk. The workshop will focus on simplified methods to identify nonstructural hazards and present a cost effective approach for mitigating the risks through scheduled building maintenance.

There will be four 2-day training workshops in four different locations in the State of Hawaii: Honolulu, Oahu; Hilo and Kailua-Kona, Hawaii; and Wailuku, Maui. The workshops will be held on February 24 through March 7, 2003. Each day will begin at 8:30 a.m. and run until 4:00 p.m. The goals of the workshops are to teach the identification and mitigation of nonstructural seismic hazards in buildings and structural seismic screening, evaluation techniques, and risk analysis.

The targeted audience for the workshops includes facilities operations, maintenance, safety, and design personnel, architects and engineers, and emergency planners. The workshops will include a number of presentations by experts involved in the identification and mitigation of nonstructural seismic hazards and the execution of structural Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) building inspections, seismic evaluations, and seismic risk assessments. There are no registration fees and attendees will receive a complementary copy of the *U.S. Department of the Interior Seismic Safety Program, Nonstructural Hazards Rehabilitation Guidelines, Volumes I and II*.

The goal of the first day “Nonstructural Seismic Hazards Workshop” is to provide training and hands-on demonstrations of cost effective methods to identify and mitigate the seismic risk associated with nonstructural building components.

Nonstructural components are those elements of a building, such as furnishings, equipment, and architectural features that are not part of the structural system. Even in moderate earthquakes, these unbraced elements are commonly damaged and the repair and business disruption costs can be very high. With inexpensive and easy to install brackets, braces, and other protective techniques and procedures, the effects of earthquakes can be substantially minimized. In fact, nonstructural seismic hazards are often viewed by the seismic safety community as “low hanging fruit” as a result of the level of risk, high repair costs, and low mitigation costs.

The goal of the second day “Structural Seismic Safety Program Issues Workshop” is to provide training and hands-on demonstrations of the Rapid Visual Screening building inspection process. The RVS process is an onsite inspection of a building by a trained structural engineer to produce a score for the building which is indicative of the building's ability to provide life-safety performance during the earthquake anticipated for the site. Topics included in the second day will be summaries of federal mandates for seismic safety, state-of-the-art seismic evaluation tools, risk assessment methodology used to estimate life safety risk, and automated database-driven data collection and reporting procedures.

Please distribute this announcement and the attached flyer to the appropriate persons in your organization. Attendance is free, but seating is limited. For more information, or to register for any of the workshops, please visit the “Announcements” link on the Bureau of Reclamation Building Seismic Safety Program Web site at [www.usbr.gov/seismicsafety/](http://www.usbr.gov/seismicsafety/) or contact Tyna S. Petersen, Co-Coordinator and Registrar, Bureau of Reclamation in Denver, Colorado at [tpetersen@do.usbr.gov](mailto:tpetersen@do.usbr.gov), or (303) 445-2573/3132